

QUICK SKETCH

'Shutter'

WHAT: "Shutter," photography by 11 artists at the University of Dallas.

BACKGROUND: Like many English words, "shutter" has multiple meanings. In photography, it's the device that exposes a camera's film by opening, then closing. It's also a window cover that either allows light to enter a building or prevents it.

Both definitions are reflected in a group exhibition at the University of Dallas' glistening new Haggerty Gallery. Curator and photographer Kelli Connell delves into a third meaning — the shutter as a removable barrier to the psyche — and a sound-alike pun — the "shudder" that some things in that psyche might elicit.

"The photographs show a hidden view and explore the artists' more personal feelings," Ms. Connell says. "They're sharing a personal narrative instead of just straight, objective photography."

HOW IT LOOKS: Five of the 11 photographers hail from Denton, usually a hotbed of formal objective art production thanks to UNT's art school. Ms. Connell, a grad student at Texas Woman's University, also culled talent through word of mouth and an Internet-based open call. Two 4-by-8-foot prints by Internet find Keri Alberthal of California dominate the space. In them, her body is so out of focus, thanks to a pinhole camera, that it decays into fuzzy, suggestive blobs. Meanwhile, Denton's Christine Shank sneers in her self-modeled poses of angst.

Featured are covert Dallas bar scenes by Sarina DeNardo (Denton), documentary shots of working-class Latino homes by Lupita Murillo (Denton), shadowy color tableaus of collections by Jacinda Russell



Amass by Jacinda Russell (2000)

(Houston) and a manic triptych by Tricia Moreau Sweeney (Houston).

Also notable are the morose doll heads of Denton's Jason Dibley (the only male photographer in the show) and the strung-out teeth and hand of Chicago's Nora Hertling. Other artists include Laura Pickett Calfee (Driftwood, Texas), Carla Poin-dexter (Florida) and Sheri Robertson (Denton).

DETAILS: On display through Jan. 24 in the Haggerty Gallery, inside Haggerty Arts Village at the University of Dallas, 1845 E. Northgate Drive, Irving. Hours: Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Free. 972-721-5087.

Mike Daniel

Untitled work by Keri Alberthal (2000)

